

"Let Your Spirit Take Wing"



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Dear Mr. Newman,

I received your letter and the copy of the paper money you sent me. As to your questions- Yes, birds do fight in the air. Usually the fighting is a battle for territory. Oftentimes, a younger bird will try to usurp the territory of an older bird that may or may not be able to defend it. The attacker will fly at the other bird from above and dive at it. The defender is able to roll quickly in the air to present it's talons to the attacker, but birds cannot fly upside-down.

The birds on the paper money were very difficult to identify. One person I work with was able to give me a good educated guess as to what they are and what the symbol means. He said that the symbol was fairly common in Europe, and the two birds are probably a heron or crane on the bottom and a falcon on top. Falconers in old Europe (and still in modern days) would fly their hunting falcons after herons. The heron is a large bird and quite a prize for the falconer. But because it is so large, it was a battle between the two and the outcome was very much in doubt. A heron could easily kill a falcon with a stab from it's sharp beak.

I am sorry I was not able to find out if this symbol or motto was used specifically during the Revolutionary War to show our conflict, but I hope this information helps you in some way. Thank you very much for coming to our program at the Butterfly House, and thank you for your questions and interest in the World Bird Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Austen
Assistant Director of Education

The World Bird Sanctuary's mission is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments. We work to fulfill that mission through education, propagation, field studies and rehabilitation.



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